Governments. As per the oil industry practice throughout the country, a maximum allocation of 250 KL of Kerosene per month per block dealership is made. New dealerships are created by restructuring the existing dealerships selling more than 250 KL of Kerosene per month. Any additional allocations above 250 KL is distributed to the dealerships whose allocation is less than 75 KL per month.

Petrol pump at Bhikiyasain in Almora district

1039. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no petrol pump at Tehsil headequarter of Bhikiyasain in Almora district of Uttar Pradesh; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam has assessed or propose to assess the requirement of Bhikiyasain Tehsil headquarter and its adjoining areas such as Janala, Bhatraujkhan, Basot, Machhour, Sadar, Masi, etc. in order to open petrol pump there; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefore and by when the said assessment is likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Retail Outler dealerships are opened at locations meeting Oil Industry's viability norms. Location Bhikiyasain has not been found feasible for setting up retail outlet dealership.

(b) Government is not aware about any such survey conducted or propose to be conducted by Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam.

Does not arise.

Corruption in Petrol Pumps

1040. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government have been drawn to the news-item captioned "Petrol Pump par Upri Kamai May Malik Ka Bhi Hissa" appeared in the Navbharat Times dated the 31st January, 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of Government thereto; and

(d) the action taken by Government so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. No such instances have come to the notice of the Government.

(c) and (d) Regular inspections/ surprise checks of retail outlets are carried out by the officers of the oil marketing companies. Also special drives are lunched by the industry from time to time for checking malpractices including adulteration.

Refining capacity in the country

1041. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the refining capacity in India as on 31st December, 1998;

(b) which oil refineries in India are using the indigenous crude from the Assam Oil Fields;

(c) whether the attention of Government have been drawn to the ban imposed by ULFA on Oil Transport from Assam;

(d) what is the reaction of Government thereto; and

(e) whether Government have decided to increase the quantity of imported crude in 1998-99?